

STOWMARKET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. W. BROWN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

for the year

1963



STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : Dr. R. U. F. Kynaston, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : W. H. Naylor.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| H. Ager, J.P. | G. L. Ince. |
| A. A. Ashton, J.P. | J. O. Milner. |
| E. Fulcher. | B. G. Quinton. |
| R. W. Hiron. | G. S. Scotland. |
| W. A. Howard. | F. W. Serjeant. |
| A. W. Iliffe. | R. N. Speirs. |
| H. G. J. Stammers | |

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: G. L. Ince.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| H. Ager, J.P. | W. A. Howard. |
| A. A. Ashton, J.P. | J. O. Milner. |
| R. W. Hiron. | F. W. Serjeant. |
| H. G. J. Stammers | |

Ex Officio: Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Council.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Doctor Kathleen M. Harding, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

L. W. Brown, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Miss G. Thompson.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

June, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Area | 1,696 acres. |
| Population (estimated mid-year | |
| Home Population, Registrar | |
| General's Figures) | 7,940 |
| Inhabited Houses | 2,600 |
| Rateable Value | £371,012 |
| Estimated Sum represented by | |
| a penny rate | £1,500 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

The local standardised Birth Rate has again increased from 15.01 to 16.98.

The Infant Mortality Rate and the Stillbirth Rate are both considerably lower than the national figures.

(i) BIRTHS (Registrar General's Figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | 54. | 72. | 126. |
| Legitimate | 53. | 64. | 117. |
| Illegitimate | 1. | 8. | 9. |

BIRTH RATE.

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population | = | 15.87 |
| Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales | = | 18.2 |
| Comparability Factor | = | 1.07 |
| Standardised Birth Rate | = | 16.98 |

STILL BIRTHS.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | -. | 1. | 1. |
| Legitimate | -. | 1. | 1. |
| Illegitimate | -. | -. | -. |

STILL BIRTH RATE:-

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------|
| Per 1,000 total live and still births | = | 7.87 |
| - do - England and Wales | = | 17.3 |

INFANT MORTALITY (Under One Year).

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Legitimate | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Illegitimate | -. | -. | -. |

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Legitimate | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Illegitimate | -. | -. | -. |

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OF AGE.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Legitimate | 2. | -. | 2. |
| Illegitimate | -. | -. | -. |

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------|
| Per 1,000 live births | = | 15.4 |
| - do - England and Wales | = | 20.9 |

(ii) DEATHS (Registrar General's Figures).

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| ALL CAUSES | 40. | 52. | 92. |

DEATH RATE:-

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population | = | 11.6 |
| Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales | = | 12.2 |
| Comparability Factor | = | 1.03 |
| Standardised Death Rate | = | 11.95 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total</u> <u>1963</u> | <u>Total</u> <u>1962</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Syphilitic disease | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | - | - | - | - |
| Malignant neoplasms, stomach | - | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| " " lung, bronchus | - | - | - | 2 |
| " " breast | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| " " uterus | - | - | - | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 12 | 5 | 17 | 18 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | - | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Other heart disease | 3 | 12 | 15 | 11 |
| Other circulatory disease | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Influenza | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Other diseases of the respiratory system | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | - | - | - | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| Motor accidents | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| All other accidents | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Homicide and operations of war | - | - | - | 1 |
| TOTALS: | 40 | 52 | 92 | 81 |

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

| | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | England and Wales 1963. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Inhabited houses | 2517 | 2538 | 2570 | 2600 | - |
| Population (Registrar General's figures) | 7640 | 7770 | 7870 | 7940 | - |
| Live births | 108 | 112 | 117 | 126 | - |
| Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 14.28 | 14.55 | 15.01 | 16.98 | 18.2 |
| Deaths of Infants under One Year | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births | 18.51 | 17.86 | 17.1 | 15.4 | 20.9 |
| Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population | 12.28 | 10.24 | 10.4 | 11.95 | 12.2 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled
from Notifications received.

| Diseases | Ages | | | | | | | Total | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|--------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|----------------------------|--------|
| | -1 | 1/2 | 3/4 | 5/9 | 10/14 | 15/24 | 25+ | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - |
| Measles | 3 | 24 | 29 | 58 | - | - | 3 | 117 | - | - |
| Acute Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | 6 | - | - |
| Dysentery | 2 | 19 | 8 | 33 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 100 | - | - |
| TOTALS:- | | | | | | | | 229 | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| | <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| (i) New Cases notified - | 1. | -. | -. | -. |
| (ii) Age of New Case - | 35 years. | | | |
| (iii) Cases crossed off the Register as recovered during the year:- | | | | |

| <u>Pulmonary.</u> | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Male - | 1. |
| Female - | -. |
| <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | |
| Male - | -. |
| Female - | 1. |

(iv) Cases crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts, or by death during the year:- 2.

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

| <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
| 14. | 3. | 17. | 6. | 6. | 12. |

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. (Figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.)

| | | | | <u>1963.</u> | <u>1962.</u> |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|
| (i) <u>SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.</u> | | | | | |
| Primary vaccinations | ... | ... | ... | 34. | 185. |
| Re-vaccinations | ... | ... | ... | 14. | 150. |
| (ii) <u>IMMUNISATIONS.</u> | | | | | |
| (a) <u>Primary.</u> | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | -. |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | -. |
| Tetanus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22. |
| Diphtheria/Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | -. |
| Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127. |
| Diphtheria/Tetanus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2. |
| | | | | | <u>151.</u> |
| (b) <u>Boosters.</u> | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 126. |

(iii) POLIOMYELITIS.

No separate figures for this District are available for Poliomyelitis vaccinations.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Formal action was necessary during the year in one instance when an elderly widower found himself unable to sustain the struggle to survive unaided by skilled attention in hospital.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council. It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated with break-point chlorination and is filtered. It is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Action taken under the Factories Act, 1961, is detailed in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Home Nursing.

Under the County Council Scheme, there are two District Nurse Midwives, supplemented by a number of part-time State Registered Nurses for general duties, all of whom perform such essential duties so well over such erratic and extended hours.

(b) Home Helps.

Miss Marriss, Welfare Officer, based at the local Offices, is the local organiser of the Home Help Service, arranging for these stalwarts of the Social Service to be available in approved cases. Home helps provide an essential service to the elderly and disabled, the problem family and mother after confinement. Without their assistance many frail lonely and elderly persons would lose their own home independence.

(c) Welfare Foods Service.

All welfare foods at economic prices are available on Wednesdays at the Violet Hill Clinic, the voluntary staffing of this section being ably undertaken by Mrs. Phillippo and Mrs. Naylor for the convenience and good of the young mothers and their babies.

Welfare foods are also available during shop hours every day at the Combs Ford Branch of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society, and national dried milk, orange juice and vitamin tablets at the local Council Offices.

(d) Health Visiting.

One full-time Health Visitor, Mrs. V. Butler, includes Stowmarket in her territory under the County Council Scheme.

The welfare of the family is her interest and charge, especially the less able,

the pre-school age, the physically handicapped and the problem family. This exacting work is arduous and demanding but achieves a very real contribution to the early arresting of human failings, prevention of disease or damage, and discourages social breakdown, thus constituting an important part of the social/health services to the community, particularly in bringing these services into the home.

(e) Clinic Services.

The Clinic is situated in Violet Hill and affords a wide variety of services:-

Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Wednesday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mothercraft and relaxation classes are attended twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

An ante-natal clinic is held twice each month.

Each Monday sees a Specialist Health Visitor in attendance for the benefit of the mentally handicapped children.

Speech therapy sessions are held on Tuesdays.

The Chest Clinic with a Consultant Chest Physician in attendance is available twice a month on 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Family planning advice is available on 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons and on 2nd and 4th Friday evenings.

Ophthalmic clinic sessions take place on 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings.

Physiotherapy treatment is available on Wednesday mornings.

The Dental Clinic operates as necessary, and a

Diabetics Clinic is held once a month.

(f) Immunisation.

Free triple vaccination is provided by the family doctors, but this service is supplemented where convenience of the mother or practitioner warrants, by a similar service provided at the Clinic. Oral poliomyelitis immunisation is administered by the Health Visitor either at the Clinic or in the home, again according to the mother's circumstances. Smallpox vaccination is undertaken by family doctors.

(g) Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Anyone who has risked infection, and any extra-marital sexual relationship constitutes this risk, should use the discreet services of the Venereal Diseases Clinics which are equipped for reliable diagnosis and speedy and convenient treatment. Two such Clinics are available to the local population as follows:-

(a) Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital (Skin Dept.) Anglesea Road Wing, Ipswich.

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Males:- | Mondays 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. | Females:- | Mondays 7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. |
| | Fridays 1.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. | | Tuesdays 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. |
| | | | Fridays 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. |

(b) West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

Males and Females - Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

(h) Laboratory Facilities.

The Council enjoys the services of the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological and biological examination which forms an essential part of preventive health work. The Laboratory Director, Dr. J. Dixon, also kindly arranged for examination of meat material through the Pathology Department. Area Public Analysts are Messrs. Lincolne, Sutton & Wood, of Norwich, who undertake chemical analyses of a variety of material which also forms an integral part of the Council's activities.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET,
Suffolk.

June, 1964.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

It is my privilege to present my second Annual Report, the first of a full year of Office for myself, concerning the environmental health work undertaken during 1963.

HOUSING.

Housing, or rather the deficiency of it, continues to form one of the major problems of the present day. To clear our substandard dwellings, rejuvenate and maintain our existing stocks of passable accommodation, supplement with Council building and encourage house-ownership constitute the Council's four-fold task. A formidable one indeed.

Slum Clearance: Early in the year the Council took stock of its resumed slum clearance programme. The job of such a programme is purely and simply to remove people from insanitary and unhealthy houses, or lacking in basic amenities for comfort, good health and convenience, and rehouse them in more suitable healthy accommodation. The demolition of houses in the procedure is merely incidental to the main activity, and is aimed at promoting redevelopment of land, the enhancement of the general aspect, and the prevention of the re-occupation of unfit property. The progress of a programme is gauged by the numbers rehoused and the needs relieved, rather than by the number of Orders made. Mindful of this, the Council decided to make a measured contribution to slum clearance by allocating one in three of every new dwelling built. This allocation was subsequently to be amended in 1964, but this original ratio of allocations is likely to obtain through to perhaps 1965. This proportion may afford 11 dwellings for slum clearance purposes for the years 1963 and 1964. In the year 1963, five sub-standard households were re-accommodated by the Council.

Formal action to close or demolish houses included in the Council's schedules is summarised as follows:-

- (a) Undertaking received to demolish No. 3, Stricklands Road.
- (b) Undertakings obtained to not re-let in respect of Nos. 9, 13, 15, and 21, Spring Row.
- (c) Clearance Area declared in respect of Nos. 4-12, Stricklands Road.
- (d) Representations made regarding Nos. 105-109, Bury Street (subsequently to result in demolition orders).
- (e) Closing Order on No. 60, Bury Street.
- (f) Undertaking obtained to not re-let No. 1, Ipswich Road, pending voluntary demolition.
- (g) Negotiations commenced for purchase for demolition and redevelopment of Ham Row.

At the end of the year there were 170 houses on the main and supplementary slum-clearance schedules requiring a potential 150 units of accommodation to be provided. Of this number it is anticipated that nearly 70 will need to be one or two-bedroom bungalow or flat units.



"Nos. 3 and 5, Stricklands Road.

Beyond their economic useful life and among the first to go in the resumed slum clearance programme."

Repairs and Maintenance: Little action was called for by the Council in connection with the routine repair of private house property. Of the twenty cases involving the Council in action to effect repairs, only two called for the issue of statutory notices in accordance with the provisions of S. 93, of the Public Health Act, 1936, to provoke remedial action. No cases were raised under the Rent Act, 1957.

House Improvements: The Council took stock of its own houses since all of its pre-1940 dwellings are now deficient in one or more respects having regard to present-day standards. Some merely require the installation of a hot water system, others the provision of bathrooms complete. With private landlords and householders being pressed to rejuvenate their dwellings the improvement of the large number of pre-war Council dwellings cannot be deferred. This is however a task which cannot be achieved overnight, and a rational programme has to be developed. The Council commenced this programme in 1963 with measures for improving 20 dwellings in Poplar Hill requiring bathrooms and hot water systems. At the same time, the Council encourage owners of property to utilise the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, as amended, to equip dwellings with basic modern amenities and remedy inherent defects in the structural nature of existing dwellings. The five basic amenities, in the form of bath, basin, interior watercloset, hot water system, and food store, encouraged by grants of 50% up to £155, with their more streamlined procedure, prove rather more popular than the discretionary grants. The Government bears 75% of the cost of grant aid, and the Council bears 25%. So far the Council has

issued nearly £25,000 in grants, of which £6072 is being borne by local rates. Publicity in improvement grant work was increased by personal letters and canvassing and a considerable amount of time was devoted to assisting and advising applicants with their proposals. Every endeavour is made to streamline the procedure so as to occasion as little delay to the applicants as is possible, and it usually requires only five weeks from submission of plan to determination by Council of the Public Health Committee's recommendation on a proposal.

In 1963 ...

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Discretionary grant schemes approved | 2. |
| Amount of grant aid involved | £414. 0s. 0d. |
| Discretionary grant schemes refused | 2. |
| Discretionary grant schemes completed | 7. |
| Amount of grant paid | £1483. 0s. 0d. |
| Standard grant schemes approved | 29. |
| Maximum amount of grant involved | £4105. 0s. 0d. |
| Standard grant schemes completed | 21. |
| Amount of grant paid | £2737. 11s. 10d. |

New Housing: Despite the virtual stoppage of house building in the arctic conditions of the winter months, private developers added 19 new house and bungalow units and the Council 18 new bungalow units to the Town's stock. The private development was mainly in the Combs Lane, Abbots Hall and Chilton Hall Estates development, and the Council's bungalows in Recreation Road and St. Edmunds Road areas. These sites continued to develop at the year's end. 1963 saw the old Edgars Farm, Combs Lane, little nearer redevelopment for mixed housing when outline proposals were submitted to the Council; densities at 18.5 and designs were not in keeping with the Council's standards and were rejected.

Whilst many are availing themselves of the opportunity of house-ownership, there are still a great number who, for financial or other reasons, are unable to commit themselves in this way. Private rented accommodation is increasingly inadequate to the task of meeting their needs and the Council's resumption of house-building was a welcome step. Following the success of the four Webb Road bungalows completed in 1962, the Council continued its development with elderly persons units in the Recreation Road and St. Edmunds Road areas, where 18 were completed and occupied. In addition to these one-bedroomed units the Council had commenced a further contract by the end of the year for two-bedroomed bungalows in St. Edmunds Road.

At 31st December, 1963, the Council's general housing waiting lists stood at 329 applicants, comprising 187 families, 77 single persons or childless couples, and 65 aged people or elderly couples. To meet the needs of these people, the Council operates a points system of allocation in connection with its stock of Council houses. Councillor Iliffe, Chairman of the Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee, continued to devote every Friday afternoon to hearing applicants' cases. Provision is made in the points scheme for the consideration of special cases warranting priority rehousing, regardless of points awarded in the general system. With new units and re-letting of vacated dwellings the Council was able to relieve the needs of 28 cases on its lists in 1963. With the very welcome bungalow additions it was possible to rehouse some existing elderly Council house tenants to more suitable accommodation, thereby releasing family houses for waiting list cases. There is an accent at the moment on building for the elderly, but sight is not lost of the relationship that must be maintained with the paramount needs of the younger family.

Temporary Dwellings: There were two licensed sites at 31st December, 1963:-

- (a) Sandpits Caravan Site for 6, Victoria Road.
- (b) Caravan Sales Caretaker Site for 1, Bury Road.

Unlicensed sites continued at:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Rear Duke's Head Inn, Ipswich Street. | (1) |
| (ii) Bridge Street Old Piggeries. | (2) |
| (iii) Rear The Pickerel's Inn, Stowupland Street. | (4) |
| (iv) Combs Ford Square. | (2) |
| (v) "Ambleside", Finborough Road (seasonal). | (2) |
| (vi) Rear 54, Regent Street. | (1) |

PEST CONTROL.

No changes occurred in the pattern of rodent infestation and control continued in the usual manner. This involves the Council in the part-time employment of Mr. Coppen, the Rodent Operator, who is shared equally with the neighbouring Gipping Rural District Council. He systematically surveys the District and maintains the area relatively free from infestation. There were the usual expected infestations occurring from time to time in certain industries, and in connection with certain activities in the District; e.g. young rats and mice must be expected in the considerable quantities of farm-straw delivered to a local straw-board manufacturer, and frequent visits are paid to this and adjoining premises, likewise the Council's refuse tip.

The Council affords private householders a free service, whilst businesses were able to take advantage of the Council's service at a very cheap re-chargeable rate of 6s. 0d. per hour, inclusive of materials, a rate destined to warrant review in the new financial year.

47 complaints of rat infestation were received.

10 complaints of mouse infestation were received.

In all, 561 premises were inspected and 141 premises received treatment.

One sewer maintenance treatment was undertaken in the Combs area of the District. The major part of the network was found to be free from infestation, and recorded activity corresponded with habitual surface infestations in the area.

Representations were made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on a number of occasions for the holding of a refresher course for operators in view of the numerous developments in techniques and materials seen in recent years, but no response to this suggestion has yet been obtained.

In addition to rodent control work, Mr. Coppen also undertakes other pest control duties, including the destruction of wasps nests. Wasps are a general menace to comfort, and even to life, in both young and old, and in recognition of this the Council offers a free destruction service, and in 1963 destroyed 43 nests.

Beatles became fashionable during the year, but it was with some considerable surprise and dismay that a bug-infestation came to light. It is a rare occurrence in a community such as this these days. The infestation was quickly and discreetly annihilated.

SANITATION.

Construction of the new public conveniences at the Queen's Head Inn, Station Road, was nearing completion at the year's end. The conveniences are modern and attractive in design, with a number of free amenities including hot and cold water washing facilities. Deliberations on the proposed conveniences at The Ford took a step nearer realisation when the County Planning Authority ceded the Council's selection of site, albeit with a request for unobtrusiveness. The conveniences will serve not only the general Combs residents, but road users

passing through. Conveniences need to be functional, and to be functional these must be reasonably conspicuous. The arts of good architectural and planning practice should be able to achieve a reasonable degree of conspicuousness, without undue intrusion into the harmony of the local scene.

The Council's problems with the drying and disposal of sludge at the Sewage Works received exhaustive investigation by the Council in conjunction with the Surveyor and his staff and the Council's Consultants, and resulted in the Council's deciding to instal a sludge-pressing plant as being the best practicable means of dealing with the quantities of sludge by-products at the Works.

Of the few cases of nuisances arising from defective drainage or sanitary appliances that were reported, only one required the service of a formal statutory notice to remedy.

Complaint arose in the Spring concerning the foul condition of part of the Old Gipping Watercourse from the sewage discharges of four Newton Road bungalows served by septic tanks. A combination of bad septic tanks and little or no flow in the Watercourse contributed to foul conditions. The Council considered the best remedy of providing sewer connections to the Newton Road sewer via a pump-house in the region of £1,000., to be unrealistic financially. The alternative of a new private sewage disposal unit in conjunction with an improvement in the Watercourse and its flow was still awaiting deliberation by the River Board at the year's end.

WATERCOURSES.

In 1963 the Council made representations regarding the Gipping in Stowmarket in the light of proposed heavy expenditure in the Ipswich Dock area. Improvements by way of cleansing of the main stretch of river through Stowmarket were effected, and the appearance of the river that much enhanced. The Board was also invited to examine the condition of the old course of the Gipping which is choked and stagnant, and unpleasant, and to consider the possibility of promoting a flow of water through the stream. Combs Ford Watercourse, also under the local control of the Gipping Internal Drainage Board, spent most of the year submerged under a wealth of weed growth to the chagrin of riparian occupants, and the detriment of the environment generally. The Board acted expeditiously in the complaints made by local residents concerning noxious liquor alleged to pass through the Watercourse from a nearby local industry.

ATMOSPHERE.

No control over domestic smoke emission is exercised by the Local Authority by way of smokeless zones or byelaws restrictions on types of appliances installed in new dwellings. With the Electricity Board unable to cope with heavy loading at peak periods, gas networks not so readily available as electricity, and a great deal of uncertainty in the solid fuel industry's future, official smoke control for this area is probably as remote as before the 1956 Clean Air Act.

On the industrial front there were a number of problems still defying solution -

I.C.I. (Paints Division) Ltd., whilst maintaining its main furnaces impeccably, was still unable to incinerate its wet paint wastes smokelessly despite secondary burners in the plant. A few complaints were received concerning the black smoke emitted, but the firm contrived to give as little trouble as possible.

Sutton & Phillips Ltd., manufacturing chemists of Stowupland Road, had been the subject of a petition from local residents in 1962, complaining of the pungent yeast-like odours emanating from the factory and pervading the area. An economically practical and effective method of eliminating the odour eluded the firm, and no improvements were achieved in 1963.

Stramit Boards Ltd. occupies a straw-board factory in Creeting Road, and this gave rise to considerable nuisance again this year. The anticipated reduction in straw waste requiring disposal, following the installation of extraction plant, did not materialise. Continuous day-and-night burning of straw waste on the factory hill-top site overlooking the town gave rise to nuisance over a wide area from smoke, smuts and fine ash deposits, and also created fire hazards. It became apparent towards the end of the year that the Council would need to enlist the support of the Public Health Act, 1936, S.93.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The bulk of the population receives a water supply from the Council's mains, which are served by supplies from the bores at the Station Road and Poplar Hill Waterworks, and supplies to part of the Combs area are fed by extension from Gipping Rural District Council mains. Eleven houses are without an inside water supply, but these are included in Slum Clearance proposals.

Total annual consumption for the District in 1963 was 106,611,000 gallons.

Nine complaints concerning water supplies were received during the year; four of these were found to arise from inherent physical characteristics of source water, and the remainder from defective service pipes.

No chemical analyses were made of local water supplies in 1963, apart from an analysis of the Station Road bore water which revealed the water to contain .15 p.p.m. calcium fluoride. Chlorination of all supplies is effected by the Engineer and Surveyor, who maintains the bacterial state of the consumer's water at nothing short of excellent, as proved by all the samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. No significant amounts of natural fluorine exist in the local bore waters, but the relatively new supplies to the Combs area, obtained from Gipping Rural District Council, contain the optimum amounts of 1 p.p.m. for protection of teeth. In a generation it may be interesting to compare the two communities. In addition to routine bacteriological examination of mains water, four private untreated supplies were examined. One of these possessed such disagreeable physical characteristics as to be unsuited for domestic use, and likely to cause nausea on consumption, and the owner/occupier concerned was prevailed upon to change to a mains supply.

During the severe winter conditions of 1963, the wholly inadequately protected water services of the Country suffered temporary closure, and Stowmarket was no exception. The older parts of the Town which do not enjoy services protected by modern standard codes of practice suffered most, and streets of houses were without a piped supply of water. The Council quickly introduced relief in the form of mobile water tanks, and the Surveyor and his staff ensured that no-one went without an adequate amount of wholesome water each day, pending re-instatement of mains supplies.

The County Council deliberated fluoridation of water supplies in 1963, and rejected its Public Health Committee's recommendation for it.

Local water undertakings took a step nearer collation when Gipping Rural District Council agreed to inclusion in an expanded Ipswich water undertaking.

REFUSE.

The Council operates a weekly household refuse collection supplemented by a trade refuse collection. This service is under the direction of the Engineer and Surveyor, who utilises side-loading collection vehicles, employing men on the skip system of collection, and disposing of the refuse at the controlled tip in Bury Road. Waste paper is collected for baling at the Union Street Depot, and disposed of monthly to Thames Board Mills.

The Council affords the community an optional municipal bin scheme, BSS refuse bins being supplied and maintained against a 5s. Od. per year charge. At the end of the year 436 bins were on issue.

The Council feels strongly over the matter of maintaining access to the rear of properties to enable collection of refuse to exclude the necessity for storing refuse bins at the front of houses. As a result of a decision against a near local authority, the Council made representations to the Urban District Councils' Association to press for amendment of the 1936 Act to require open and unrestricted access to the rear of dwellings for refuse collection.

The installation of litter bins generally throughout the District became deferred pending the proposed face-lift to the shopping centre, scheduled for mid-1964.

FOOD.

Food businesses in the Town are analysed as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bakers | 3. |
| Butchers | 6. |
| General provision grocers | 15. |
| Fruiterers | 8. (inc. one wet fish merchant). |
| Cake confectioners | 3. |
| Sweet confectioners | 11. |
| Fish friers | 4. |
| Wet fish merchant | 1. |
| Wine and spirit merchants | 3. |
| Chemists | 3. |
| Restaurants and cafes | 11. |
| Public houses | 18. |
| Market stallholders | 7. |
| Mobile ice-cream vendors | 6. |
| Mobile 'hot-dog' vendor | 1. |
| Sweet confectionery wholesaler | 1. |
| General grocery wholesalers | 2. |
| Meat products manufactory | 1. |

Initial inspection of the food businesses in the Town revealed some extremes of standard. The standard of the best is high, both in amenity and conduct. Personal hygiene generally is about average, but it is disappointing to record that a number of proprietors have yet to invest in the minimum standards of the Food Hygiene Regulations, whose provisions have stood since 1st January, 1956. In the year work commenced to persuade the necessary improvements in these premises without resort to formal Court action if avoidable. This town has not had a food poisoning case since 1954, and, no doubt, in certain cases complacency has crept in; this must be remedied. Standards generally received a fillip with the provision of new food shop premises of a modern and good standard in Ipswich Street, and together with other new shops and improved old ones seen in recent years, will eventually reflect in higher standards all round.

Meat products continue to figure prominently in National food poisoning statistics, currently averaging 10,000 cases a year. The methods of production, slaughter and distribution in some instances still leave room for a great deal of improvement. It became necessary to make representations regarding handling of meat both inside and outside the District on a number of occasions in 1963.

Four complaints of defective food arose during the year. One concerned tainted cake confectionery resulting from absorption of odours from preservative-spraying of cellar timbers under the shop. The County Food and Drugs Authority prosecuted the matter through its Weights and Measures Inspector in the local Court, where a fine of £15, was imposed on the proprietor, Messrs. Mayhew & Son, of Ipswich Street. Another complaint from a customer of S. C. Proctor, Stowupland Street, concerned chocolate bars infested with maggots, which were identified as *Ephestia clutella*, the cacao moth. Insufficient attention to shelves and stock rotation gave rise to this, and the local magistrate imposed a fine of £2, when the case was submitted by this Council. Two other matters, one relating to soiled luncheon meat canned in Holland, and the other to fly bodies in Orange Juice canned in Israel, had to be dealt with outside the Courts.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963, were issued with effect from 1st January, 1964, to require certain precautions to be taken to obviate infection and food poisoning conditions. It will concern the Council only in bakeries and catering establishments.

Ice-Cream: Contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations resulted in the temporary cancellation of ice-cream registration of one retailer, pending compliance. This was nearly the result in another case where it was found that the ice-cream cabinet was kept in what was virtually an aviary. This was expeditiously remedied. Application for registration of the kiosk on the local Station was refused in the absence of hot water supplies, which British Railways apparently consider an unnecessary extravagance. 40 premises are on the Register authorising the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured locally.

11 samples of ice-cream were submitted to Methylene Blue test, 10 being classified as Grade I, and 1 as Grade II products, all very satisfactory.

Meat: The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into force on 1st October, and make post-mortem examination of slaughterhouse throughput obligatory, and involve two hours each weekday afternoon. The Council was unable to secure the services of any neighbouring Authorities with larger staffs for leave relief purposes, but was eventually fortunate to receive an offer of help in this direction from local private veterinary practitioners. The arrangement works very well, and the consumer is assured of qualified surveillance of locally-produced fresh meat supplies.

Three slaughtermen were licensed by the Council in 1963.

The two slaughterhouses of Messrs. W. H. Aldis & Sons, and W. A. Turner Ltd., deal with cattle/sheep and pigs respectively. A review of the premises was submitted at the annual licensing when attention was drawn to the fact that quite a number of the requirements of the Slaughterhouse Regulations, 1958, had never been met, and the firms were invited to effect the necessary compliance. Meat examination in particular was difficult in a light as low as 5 foot-candles instead of the required 40. The standard of health of the animals purchased for slaughter is very good. No tuberculosis was found in cattle and in pigs only very occasionally shown to have been picked up by sub-maxillary or mesenteric lymph nodes. The majority of offals warranting condemnation were affected by inflammatory conditions in the lungs, and parasitic conditions in livers. Abscess formation in livers of stall-fed beasts was noticeable. It was again not possible to achieve 100% examination of meat up to 1st October, owing to leave arrangements, but of the 4340 animals slaughtered, 4,090 were examined.

An analysis of the findings is set out as follows:-

| | <u>Cattle.</u> | <u>Calf.</u> | <u>Sheep.</u> | <u>Pigs.</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Animals slaughtered | 409. | 1. | 446. | 3484. |
| Number examined | 388. | 1. | 422. | 3279. |
| Other than tuberculosis:- | | | | |
| (a) Whole animals unfit | -. | -. | -. | 6. |
| (b) Parts or organs unfit | 30. | -. | 8. | 601. |
| % of animals examined | 7.73. | -. | 1.9. | 18.5. |
| Tuberculosis only:- | | | | |
| (a) Whole animals unfit | -. | -. | -. | -. |
| (b) Parts or organs unfit | -. | -. | -. | 18. |
| % of animals examined | -. | -. | -. | .55. |

No cases of infestation by cisticercus bovis occurred.

Rejected meat and offal are disposed of to the Suffolk Fat and Bone Meal Co. Ltd., Oulton Broad, and B. Dunning, Knackerman, Great Finborough. The total weight of meat condemned was 944 lbs. and offals 812 lbs. Total condemnations which were confined to pigs resulted from:-

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Acute septic peritonitis | 1. |
| Acute enteritis | 1. |
| Pyæmia | 3. |
| Metritis | 1. |

No exchequer contribution for export meat examined was obtainable after 31st March, 1963, in view of the meat inspection charges to be levied from the 1st October. From this date the Council decided to charge the maximum amounts of 2s. 6d. per beast, 9d. per pig, and 6d. other animals.

Milk: Apart from registration of distributors, milk administration is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the County Council. In addition to the C.W.S. Creamery there are four milk purveyors in the District registered for the sale of designated milk. The County Health Inspector took 30 samples of raw milk delivered to the local creamery; on biological examination, none was found to contain tubercle or brucella abortus infection. 60 samples from general and school supply were submitted for statutory test for efficiency of pasteurisation, and general cleanliness; one failed methylene blue test. 9 samples for chemical analysis were all found satisfactory.

General Foodstuffs: Examination of stocks in warehouses and shops continues as time permits, and the firms of Messrs. J. Copeman & Son, and Stowmarket Co-operative Society Ltd. utilise the Council's services for the disposal of unsound stocks. In the period under review, 1,007 lbs. of unfit foodstuffs were dealt with, the material being disposed of on the Council's refuse pit.

An important part of Local Authorities' surveillance of food supplies is carried-out by County Food and Drugs Authorities, who arrange for a watchful eye to be kept on consumer goods and periodically submit foods for chemical analysis. This results in safeguards not only to pocket but also to health and comfort. The County Weights and Measures Inspector who has a Divisional Office in Stowmarket, undertakes the County's work in this sphere, and for the year 1963 reports as follows:-

"Number of samples taken with the Urban District in 1963 -

| | <u>Genuine.</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory.</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Meat Products | 1. | 1. |
| Confectionery | 1. | 2. |
| Canned Fruit & Preserves | 1. | 2. |
| Bread & Cakes | 1. | 4. |
| Dairy Products | | 1. |
| Drugs | 3. | |
| Soft Drinks | | 2. |
| Fresh Fruit & Vegetables | 7. | 1. |

Details of unsatisfactory samples:-

Canned Grill:- Ingredients specified in incorrect order.

2 Samples of Chocolate:- marked "Contains Genuine Old Jamaica Rum". Alcohol content negligible. Manufacturers claimed depreciation due to long storage.

Grapefruit Segments and Yoghurt:- Labelling infringements.

Melon & Ginger Jam:- Soluble solids slightly deficient of standard required by Food Standard (Preserves) Order, 1953.

4 Samples of Pies etc.:- Contaminated with solignum which had been used against woodworm in shop premises. Sale of affected articles of food continued after the matter had been brought to the attention of proprietor and legal proceedings taken - £15 fines and £2. 2s. costs.

Mustard & Cress:- (Sold from stall at Market Place) Mostly rape seed; exaggerated vitamin claim. This matter was the subject of investigation by a number of Food and Drugs authorities and legal proceedings were taken by West Suffolk County Council.

Cyder Type Drink:- (2 Samples) Claim "Non Alcoholic", in fact contained 0.8% alcohol.

The seven fruit and vegetable samples were taken for the express purpose of examination for pesticide residues. All were found to be free from traces of such residues."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the year. Measles simmered through the Spring and early Summer. Many outbreaks of some dysentery occurred throughout the Country and the infection visited Stowmarket for a brief spell of two months in June and July. Infection was initially discovered among children in a residential nursery home, although it is doubtful if this was the source of the District's outbreak. By prompt and co-ordinated attention to cases and suspects involving a number of people in a great deal of work, notably the local family doctors and the staff of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Ipswich, the outbreak was quickly controlled and eliminated. Examination of faeces specimens is an essential part of control work, and the Laboratory Service was magnificent for it was inundated with specimens from many localities, in the Counties it serves, yet managed its usual meticulous service. In Stowmarket, 100 cases arose, 76 households and numerous other establishments were investigated, and in all, 612 faecal specimens were dealt with. The outbreak caused a considerable amount of inconvenience to individuals and disappointment to the many children involved when their Sunday School treats and holidays were adversely affected. Two young women lost their jobs whilst excluded from employment in food shops, and one year-old boy became a problem carrier for an extenuated period. The compensation provisions of the 1961 Public Health Act were a boon, and contributed in no small way to the co-operation and the prevention of spread achieved. Compensation cost the Council £60, but this is a fraction of the cost that would have been involved if this action had not been taken. Insurance against these costs has been obtained with the Alliance Insurance Group, to cover all diseases for the local population for a premium of £24, per year.

A good standard of personal hygiene by those involved in the outbreak contributed in no small way to its confinement. Only when hot water, washhandbasin, soap and towels become as much a part of the watercloset equipment and practice as the pan, can we expect to see an appreciable reduction in these occurrences however.

Two local residents, contacts of a smallpox infected area whilst on holiday in Sweden, passed through their period of surveillance without mishap.

A local schoolteacher started his Autumn term in quarantine for a brief period, having picked up some dysentery whilst holidaying in Yugoslavia. With the speed, ease and economy of present-day travel, new frontiers are opened, and it is frequently demonstrated that a smallpox outbreak in Pakistan or a dysentery infection in Dbrownic are not necessarily so far distant from even Stowmarket, and the local authority machine must be poised ready for service if necessary.

ANIMALS

Two pet shops are licensed by the Council:-

- (a) Cramphorn Ltd., 4, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, where a wide variety of pets enjoy a fairly rapid turnover as part of the recognised trade of this branch firm. It was necessary to ask for some improvement in the sanitation of the dogs' accommodation in the year, particularly in view of the proximity of a neighbouring cake confectioner's shop.

(b) A. W. Alderton, t/a Marina, 39, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, where the sale of Budgerigars forms a limited part of the shop's trade.

In both cases the animals have the benefit of staff who have a very real love of their charges, and periodic visits to the shops have revealed the animals' welfare to be adequately provided for.

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, was issued in the year with effect from the 1st January, 1964. Only one such establishment exists in the District, that of Mrs. R. de Vere Packford, at Minton Kennels, Bury Road, Stowmarket, where cats and dogs are boarded. Initial inspection of the premises revealed acceptable conditions. It was felt necessary however to incorporate as a condition of the licence the prohibition of the use of meat other than fit butcher's or sterilised meat. This is considered important as a direct regard for the animals' health, and, more important, its indirect effect upon its owner's health.

The increasing tendency to feeding pets with fit butcher's meat or canned sterilised products is a good one. With cat's and dog's close relationship to man their feeding upon unfit meat, albeit stained, was a practice to be deplored.

This role of vector in human disease was open to demonstration during the year when some spot checks on raw minced pet meat introduced into the retail shop of a local butcher by a firm of animal food processors, found it to contain *Salmonella menston*. Needless to say the supplies of this commodity were immediately withdrawn.

WORKPLACES

Factories: Routine inspection of factory premises revealed a number of deficiencies in sanitary accommodation. Apart from non-powers factories, most of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961, are administered by H.M. Factories Inspector based at Ipswich. This Department's statistics are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Powered factories | 58. |
| Unpowered factories | 2. |
| Other premises (Building sites etc.) | 8. |
| Number of inspections | 20. |
| Sanitary defects found | 5. |
| Sanitary defects remedied | 4. |

Two premises are registered in accordance with the Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:-

- (i) Messrs. Cole & Sons (Furnishers) Ltd., 57, Ipswich Street.
- (ii) Messrs. J. Collins & Sons Ltd., Jaycol Works, Finborough Road.

No samples were taken.

Shops and Offices: Inspection of some 40% of the 125 shops in the District revealed some glaring deficiencies and defects. The Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, is due to come into partial effect in 1964, and there are many shop staff who can look forward to a long-overdue improvement in the standard of amenity in their places of employment. The new Act will involve the Council in considerable added duties for apart from factory offices, local authority and Crown premises and fire precautions, the whole of the welfare provisions of the Act falls to the lot of the local Council. It will be labour well spent.



"The Washing Facilities at a local establishment, soon to come under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Need for the Act is not confined to the cities ... "

NOISE

Noise affects the human emotions in varying degrees according to its type, variation, intensity and volume, and as such plays an important part in man's well-being. Unwelcome noise can therefore have a high nuisance rating. In recognition of the need for some curb on unnecessary and harmful noise, the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, provides the legal instrument for effecting some control over the production of noise in our environment.

During the year, the Violet Hill Road Laundry, one of the Advance Group operating under the name of the Cromer Steam Laundry Co. Ltd., was the subject of complaint by neighbouring residents who found the incessant high-pitched whine of the drying tumblers incompatible. Modifications to the exhaust ducts and a new relatively quieter motor reduced the noise to a reasonably acceptable level for day-time operation.

In present day society with its increasing tendency to mechanisation, noisy transport, transistor radios and the like, the opportunities for some good, old-fashioned peace and quietness diminish, and the selected tranquility of one's own home is to be cherished and any undue intrusion into this privacy is a matter for concern.

The satisfaction expressed in last year's Report concerning the use of mobile ice-cream vendors advertising chimes was short-lived. Throughout the summer and well into the Autumn months, numerous vendors, many plying their trade from Ipswich depots, vied with each other for the last drop of local trade, their

enthusiasm for sales (and their related commission) overruled any consideration for the Act and the local community. Not only did their jangling chimes infringe the prohibited hours of 7 p.m - 12 noon, but their use during permitted hours was out of all proportion. Requests for improvement proved fruitless, and 1964 may well see the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, put to practical use.

RECREATION

The Council provides a spacious and attractive recreation ground near the Town Centre, and an equally fine and accessible open-air swimming pool. Both are well patronised and are fine assets, particularly to the youngsters.

The pool measures 100 ft. long and depth varies from 3 ft. 0 ins. to 9 ft. 6 ins. It is constructed of concrete attractively decorated with white chlorinated rubber paint; immediate surrounds are well paved and grass areas also provide sunbathing facilities in an ideal sun-trap situation surrounded on three sides by trees. A children's paddling pool is also installed and operates on the same circuit as the main pool water which is chlorinated and filtered. Five routine samples submitted for bacteriological examination showed the bacterial quality to be as high as the excellent physical condition of the water. In addition to the public pool which was open from May until September, three school pools exist, and the local young people have every opportunity for learning the possible life-saving, and certainly health-promoting, art of swimming in safe conditions.

PLANNING

Byelaw and planning control exercise a very important function in the health and environment of the community, and the Council's Public Health Committee, advised by the Engineer and Surveyor, considered 195 plans in accordance with the Health and Planning Acts. Planning recommendations were referred to the South West Area Planning Committee covering also the rural districts of Sanford and Gipping. Delegated powers continued to elude these Councils, and urban Stowmarket in particular continues to rely upon representation by three of its Members on a Committee including a much greater majority of rural Council representation.

GENERAL

It will be seen that one death from tuberculosis is recorded. The person involved was engaged in the food industry, and the fact that he had a respiratory tuberculous infection was only brought to light on his death. There is often the call for registration of various food trades as a means of control, but the prime necessity in my view is for registration of food personnel and periodic lung and bowel examination should be a requisite of registration. The County Council has voluntarily introduced a medical enquiry check and bowel examination as a pre-requisite to employment in its school canteens. At the very least the law should require this of all food personnel.

The Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors was attended with the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor G. L. Ince. The Conference, attended by over 2,000 delegates, provided a stimulating and informative programme and was well worth attendance. Among the matters for discussion were -

- A symposium on Food Hygiene.
- Improving our homes. Plan for action.
- The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.
- Clearing the Air - The Domestic Contribution.
- Economies of Public Cleansing.
- Consumer Protection.
- Implementation of the Meat Inspection Regulations.
- New materials and techniques in building.

As had been anticipated by the Council, the increasing volume of public health work accruing since 1936 made the provision of clerical assistance in the Department a very real need. On the 1st October, Miss Gillian Thompson commenced her duties in this capacity, and quickly proved herself to be absolutely first class in all respects and a great asset to the public health services of the Council.

In this my first full year in Stowmarket, the Council and staff have brought me a new concept of the Local Authority unit, and I wish to record my appreciation of the ever-ready help and advice and tolerance afforded me during the year by all within it.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,

L. W. BROWN

Public Health Inspector.

